

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 2 October 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Notman, William Russell	i	Adanac Military Cemetery	link
44 th Infantry Battalion	i	Somme, France	i
Lieutenant	i	Plot 6 Row E Grave 32	i
Date of Death: 25/10/1916	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	n/a	Graves Registration Report	7
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	8
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	9

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 6 Row E Grave 32 lists an Unknown Canadian Soldier of the 44th Battalion with a Shoulder Strap, thus an Officer.

The only Officer of the 44th Battalion on the Vimy Memorial for that time and location is Lieutenant William Russell Notman. He was KIA along with Major W. H. Grant and Lieutenant W. R. Wilson on October 25, 1916 at Courcelette, each of which have an identified grave in Adanac Military Cemetery.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains of the Officer in Plot 6 Row E Grave 32 are those of Lieutenant William Russell Notman of the 44th Canadian Infantry Battalion, killed in action in the trenches north of Courcelette, France on October 25, 1916.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death (COD) file for Lieutenant Notman reports that he was hit by enemy machine gun bullets and killed while taking part in an attack west of Le Sars, France. That places him in the correct place for the action of October 25, 1916 just north of Courcelette (Attachment #1). The flip side of the COD states that he was in the Valley in front of Courcelette marked as 57c M13 d (central). Many other men of the 44th Battalion were lost in that same area.
2. The CEF, Canada War Graves Register shows that the body of Lieutenant Notman was not previously identified as one of the sets of remains recovered from the battlefield, thus he was recorded as one of the missing on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #2).
3. The war diary of the 44th Battalion on October 25, 1916 reports on the death of Lieutenant. Notman, along with [Captain Grant](#) (*Acting Major on posthumous records*) and [Lieutenant Wilson](#) (Attachment #3). Officers Grant and Wilson are both buried in Adanac Military Cemetery, as shown by the links to their CWGC records. Captain Grant and Lieutenant Wilson were both found at 57c M14 a.7.5, very close to the remains of Lieutenant Notman. The war diary Appendix reports the attack would be made by 3 Platoons from 57c M14 a.71.23 to M13 b.8.3.
4. The general area of the 10th Infantry Brigade to the north of the “*North Practice Trenches*” is depicted in Sketch 34 in the Nicholson reference document. We know from prior research that the North Practice Trenches are located at 57c M19 a.5.5 to M19 b.5.1 (Attachment #4). The area to the north and east of the practice trenches places the 44th Battalion in Sectors M14 and M15.
5. The precise area where the remains were found is illustrated on an extract of the Le Sars trench map from the 1916 collection of the Imperial War Museum (Attachment #5). We have previously marked this map for the location of Pys Road, Dyke Road and the North Practice Trenches for that period. We have then added the star to mark the location of the remains. This is the same location where Captain (Acting Major) Grant and Lieutenant Wilson were also recovered.
6. The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission show that there are 12 Lieutenants of the 44th Battalion who have their name inscribed on the Vimy Memorial for the missing. Two (2) of these Lieutenants were KIA in 1918, nine (9) in 1917 and only one (1) in 1916 (Attachment #6). As such, there is no question that the only missing Lieutenant at Courcelette in October 1916 is Lieutenant Notman. The CWGC records show that there are no other Officers missing and on the Vimy Memorial at any other time.

7. The presence of the unknown Officer of the 44th Battalion was not presented during our initial review of the “Graves Registration Report Form” (GRRF) as the document only reports an UNKNOWN SOLDIER of the 44th Battalion C.E.F. (Attachment #7).
8. Subsequent review of the “Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return” (COG-BR) provided the information that the remains exhumed at Map 57c Sector M14 Grid a.5.2 were those of an Officer of the 44th Battalion, as it states “Shoulder Strap 44 Canadians”. Only an Officer of the Battalion would be wearing a shoulder strap (Attachment #8).

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

It is our contention that the investigation is clear that remains located in Plot 6 Row E Grave 32 at Adanac Military Cemetery are those of Lieutenant William Russell Notman and the commemoration records should be so amended.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
	Lieutenant,	NOTMAN,	William Russell,
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
44th Battalion.	25-10-16.	371-10-12.	Not stated.
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Killed in Action."</p> <p>He was hit by enemy machine gun bullets and killed while taking part in an attack West of Le Sars.</p>			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
NOTE:—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave.....	
		Plot.....	
		Row.....	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

In Valley in front of Courcellette, Sheet 57c.M.13.d.Central.

21. REMARKS.

ATTACHMENT #2

36333

NUMBER..... RANK Lieut. NAME NOTMAN, W. R.

UNIT 44th Battalion NEXT-OF-KIN:--

FILE NO. R.L. Q-N-72

D.G.R. & E. REF

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
25-10-16	Killed in Action	508 Sht.1.

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
X	<p>✓ Record of Burial Authority on R. L. 26-7a.</p> <p>Killed in Area - Somme Authority on R. L. Q-N-72</p> <p>In valley in front of Bourcellette. BR/1824/SYRE.</p> <p>Sheet 57c.M.13. d Cen. Auth of file 371-10-12.</p> <p>(folio 21)</p>	

**VIMY
MEMORIAL**

ATTACHMENT #3

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			Army Form C. 2118.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.			(Erase heading not required.)
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
BRICKFIELDS	24/8	8 pm	Raining. The Battalion were to have attempted to take REGINA TRENCH from M.14b.2.3 to M.13b.4.1 Sheet 57c, but owing to weather conditions operations were suspended for 24 hours. Lieut F. G. CHURCH was evacuated to O.R.C. suffering from laryngitis - furnished a ration party of 60 O.R. to carry rations to the front line.
	25/8	9 pm	Raining during morning but clearing during afternoon. Battalion attempted to capture portion of REGINA TRENCH under Operation Order No. 9. The operation failed owing to insufficiency of Artillery Barrage. The Battalion suffered heavily - Three Officers, Capt. W. H. Grant, Lieut. R. Notman and Lieut. W. R. Wilson were killed and 7 Officers, Capt. C. S. Becher, Lieut. N. C. M. Brown, Lieut. W. C. Thompson, Lieut. R. Fowler, Lieut. C. F. J. Randolph, Lieut. F. D. King and Lieut. W. Ross, were wounded and Lieut. J. E. Shoultz was evacuated for shell shock. 37 O.R. were killed, 125 wounded, 13 missing, believed killed, and 13 missing. The Battalion are being relieved by 50 th Bn. tonight and coming to TARA HILL. The Transport Base were ordered to move and moved from BRICKFIELDS to W. 29a. Sheet 57d, during the day. The Transport has also to move field kitchens and blankets to TARA HILL for the night.

APPENDIX A.

SECRET.

Copy No. /

44th Battalion OPERATION ORDER NO. 9.
23.10.16

1. INFORMATION. The 44th Battalion will capture and consolidate the REGINA Trench from where it crosses FARMER ROAD on the right at M.14b.2.3. to the 11th Brigade Block which is in M.13b.4.1. on the left, followed up by the clearing up of the area in M.14a.6.6., thence the line will be turned back along FARMER ROAD to meet the DYKE ROAD. This operation is to be carried out in conjunction with further operations.

2. PHASE 1.

(a) Objectives.

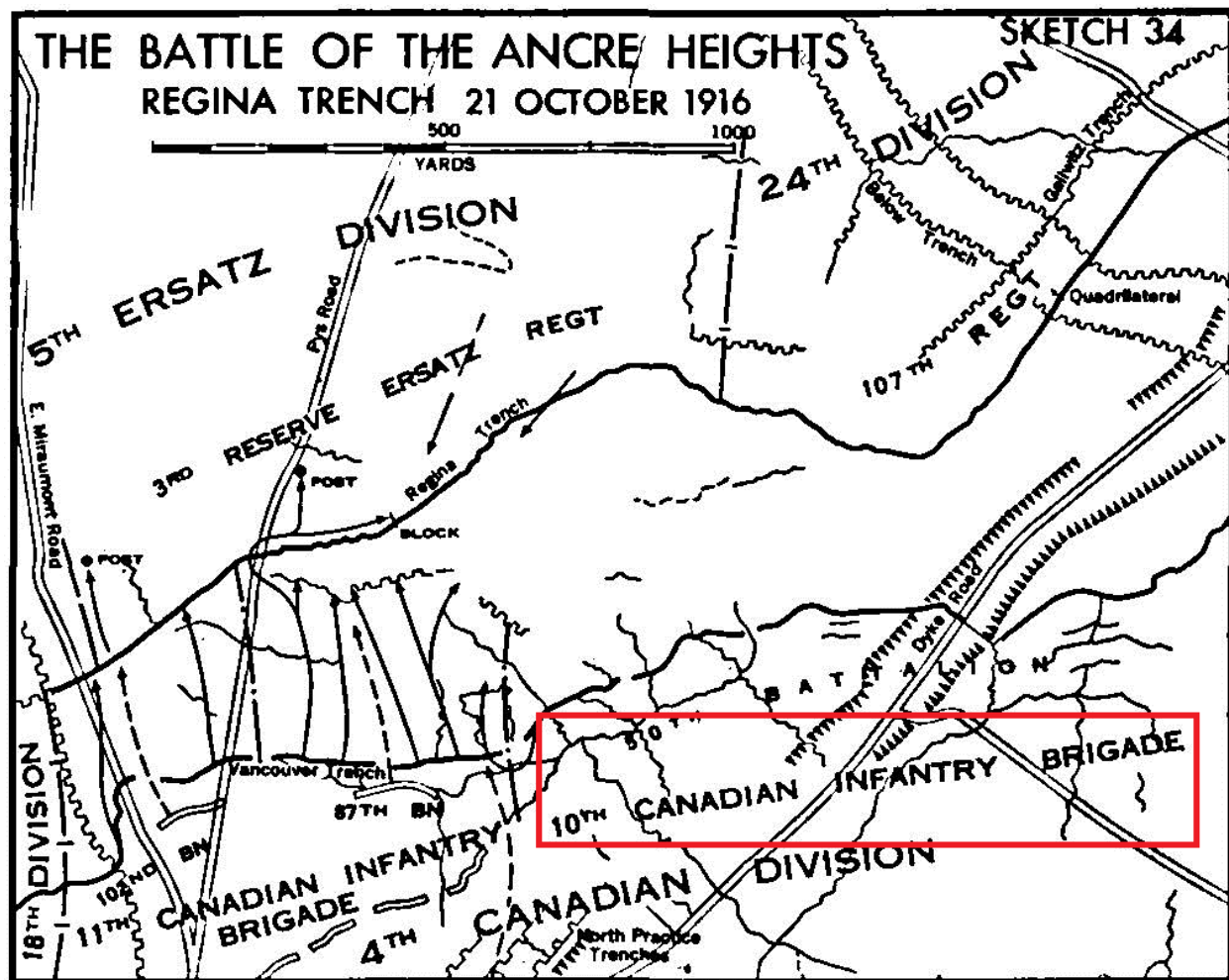
First - REGINA TRENCH from where it crosses the FARMER ROAD on the right at M.14b.2.3. to M.13b.4.1.

Second - The Spur in M.14a.6.6.

(b) The attack will be made on a front of 3 platoons from M.14a.7 1/2.3 - M.13b.8.3. Each platoon will be followed by three other platoons of its own Company, making 4 waves. In the case of the centre company the mopping up wave will be found by one platoon of the fourth company (this wave will complete the line of mopping up parties in Regina Trench). On the centre company reaching its objective the second platoon will become the mopping up wave for that Company.

The remaining three platoons of the fourth company will be employed as additional wave to the centre company (which will then have seven waves and intermediary wave).

ATTACHMENT #4



IIWM 1:10,000 Le Sars Trench Map

Pys

Pys Road





Dyke Road

Locations of Remains

Le Sars (In Ruins)

North Practice Trenches

ATTACHMENT #6

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
BRADFORD, FREDERICK WILLIAM	Lieutenant		23/08/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
BROADFOOT, DANIEL JAMES	Lieutenant		23/08/1917	25	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
GUNN, ANDREW MCKAY	Lieutenant		23/08/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
McCLURE, HENRY	Lieutenant		23/08/1917	27	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
NOTMAN, WILLIAM RUSSELL	Lieutenant		25/10/1916	27	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
OLIVER, MOSES	Lieutenant		11/05/1917	34	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
PERDUE, MOWBRAY MACDONELL	Lieutenant		09/05/1917	26	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
ROBERTSON, HENRY ALEXANDER	Lieutenant		11/05/1917	28	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
ROSS, HAROLD OSBORNE	Lieutenant		09/05/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
SMITH, CHARLES HAROLD	Lieutenant		02/08/1918	24	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
SMITH, S S	Lieutenant		03/08/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
TRITTON, GEORGE	Lieutenant		19/02/1918	24	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #7

E.R.R. 2.10.20. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

3rd.A.S.NO.W/ 4468

REPORT No. 90. SCHEDULE No. 4/c.

COMMUNE: MIRAUMONT.

PLACE OF BURIAL ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY.

Map Reference 57d.R.18.a.3.4.

The following are buried here:—

Informations

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		<u>PLOT 6. ROW "E" (CONTD)</u>				
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.			ALL	Gr. 31. ✓
44/C. E. F.		UNKNOWN SOLDIER.				32. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				33. ✓
C. E. F.		UNKNOWN SOLDIER.				34. ✓
-do-		-do-				35. ✓
16/ -do-	420386	DOUGLAS	✓ L/SGT.F.			36. ✓
-do-		UNKNOWN SOLDIER.				37. ✓
-do-		-do-			CROSSES	38. ✓
45/ -do-	192219	FRASER	✓ PTE.A.			39. ✓
72/ -do-		TURNER	✓ PTE.R.			40. ✓
<hr/>						
		<u>ROW "F"</u>				
10/N. F.		UNKNOWN SOLDIER.				Gr. 1. ✓
-do-	19822	WALTON	✓ PTE.J.E.			2. ✓
-do-	(late 19846 4774)	IRVING	✓ PTE.R.	25.9.16	ERECTED	3. ✓

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms W3372/3

ENTERED 22/10
A.C.14-12.20

ATTACHMENT #7

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).
BURIAL RETURN.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial ADANAC BRITISH CEMETERY. 57D. 112. 8. 20. 10.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
6	E	31	570. M. 14. A. 5. 2.	Yes	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Foots etc. GRU.	No.
"	"	32	-do-	"	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER.	Shoulder Strap 44. Canada. GRU.	"
"	"	33	-do-	"	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Clothing etc GRU.	"
"	"	34	-do-	"	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER.	Kilt etc, GRU.	"
"	"	35	570. M. 14. A. 5. 3.	"	UNKNOWN SOLDIER O.E.P.	Cross on grave GRU. PB. 5.	"
"	"	36	-do-	"	420888. L/Sgt F DOUGLAS. (34.10165) 10th Canadian Bn.	Cross on grave GRU. PB. 6.	"
"	"	37	-do-	"	UNKNOWN SOLDIER O.E.P.	Button. GRU. PB. 11.	"
"	"	38	-do-	"	UNKNOWN SOLDIER. O.E.P.	Shoulder Strap. Canada GRU. PB. 7.	"
"	"	39	-do-	"	192319. Pte A. PRASER. 15th Canadian Bn.	Cross on grave GRU. PB. 9.	"
"	"	40	-do-	"	Pte G. TURNER. 15th Canadian Bn. (34.10150) (Broken Disc.)	Cross on grave GRU. PB. 9.	"

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (G. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

G.S.A. W.L. 21253/11 F. 6348. 150,000/5. 9/39. S.O.F. Bd.

ATTACHMENT #10

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author
Tim McTague	CEFSG Member	timmct@verizon.net	Reviewer